

OKEHAMPTON RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

On the Health

of the District

for the year

1972



Presented by

The Medical Officer of Health

and

The Chief Public Health Inspector

ANNUAL REPORT
of
THE HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT DURING 1972

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I beg to present the Annual Report of the District during 1972, drawn up in accordance with the requirements of the Department of Health and Social Security Circular, 1/73, dated January, 1973.

The estimated population mid-year showed an increase of 70. The Standardised Birth Rate of 15.5 per 1,000 population was higher than the National Rate of 14.8 per 1,000 population. Heart and Circulatory diseases were the commonest causes of death (98 out of a total of 166 deaths).

As usual the general health of the community was good. The main concern during the past few years has been the increase in Salmonella infections, occurring in farming stock particularly. These can be serious if contracted by elderly persons and very young children, and continuous surveillance is necessary by your Public Health Department.

Reference was made in last year's report to the resignation of Mr. Lethbridge on 31st January, 1972. Mr. Wright then took office as Chief Public Health Inspector, and I should particularly like to thank him for his support during a year of great difficulties due to Local Government Re-organisation preparations, in addition to the normal heavy work load of the department.

Finally, I should like to thank the Chairman, Councillors and Staff for their constant consideration and assistance throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

Your obedient servant,

MARY E. BUDDING

Medical Officer of Health



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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

MARY E. BUDDING, MB., B.Ch., B.SC., M.F.C.M., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector

L. E. LETHBRIDGE, F.I.P.H.E., M.A.P.H.I. (Retired 31st January, 1972)

E. W. WRIGHT, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.I.P.H. AND H.,
A.M.A.M.I. (Commenced 1st February, 1972 as Chief P.H.I.)

Technical Assistant/Authorised Meat Inspector

M. BOOTH

Clerk of Works/General Assistant

J. F. O'KEEFFE

Clerk to the Inspectorial Section

MISS E. BROCK

Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health

MISS E. M. HAMBLY, S.R.N. (Part-time)

(D.C.C. Clinic, 70 Plymouth Road, Tavistock)

Telephone: Tavistock 2617

Staff at Hatherleigh Abattoir

Senior Meat Inspector

T. J. BURDUS, M.A.P.H.I., M.A.M.I.

Senior Authorised Meat Inspector

I. McMILLAN

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

The following members of the Council served on the Public Health
and Housing Committee during the year.

Chairman: Mr. S. P. S. Perkin

Vice-Chairman: Mrs. M. M. Hampson, C.C.

Mr. C. T. P. Abell
Mr. E. R. Badcock
Mr. F. J. Baker
Lt. Col. V. W. Calmady-Hamlyn
Mr. P. Cleverdon
Mr. J. Darch
Mr. F. Dennis
Mr. T. W. Endacott
Mr. F. H. Fishleigh
Mrs. P. A. Fletcher
Mr. F. Gerrard
Mr. J. Hill
Mr. P. Hill

Mr. R. R. Kelly
Major W. R. A. Kettle
Mr. A. J. Knapman
Mr. R. C. Leventhorpe
Mr. G. E. D. Parsons
Mr. C. J. Petherick
Mrs. R. A. Rattenbury
Mr. J. I. Reddaway
Mr. W. J. Reed
Mr. J. E. B. Wells
Mr. F. C. Western
Mrs. E. B. Wonnacott

SECTION "A"

General Statistics

Area (Statute acres)	...	...	...	...	132,516
Population—1951 Census	...	...	...	...	12,629
Population—1961 Census	...	...	...	...	11,994
Estimated mid-year population—1972	...	...	...	...	11,030
Parishes	...	...	...	...	27
Number of inhabited dwellings	...	...	...	...	4,180
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	£260,616
Product of the new Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£2,487
Loan Debt	...	...	...	...	£1,021,111

Live Births				Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	63	52	115
Illegitimate	...	...	...	7	4	11
				70	56	126
Deaths	...	...	...	76	90	166

Population	Year	Mid-year Population	Birth Rate	Death Rate
	1968	11,300	13.2	12.8
	1969	11,210	12.1	14.0
	1970	11,110	11.3	12.4
	1971	10,960	12.1	13.3
	1972	11,030	11.4	15.0

Live Births

Number	...	...	...	126	England and Wales
Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	11.4	14.8
Standardised Birth Rate	...	...	...	15.5	—

Illegitimate Live Births

(per cent of total births)	...	...	9%	9%
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Still Births

Number (3 legitimate, 1 illegitimate)	4	
Rate per 1,000 total live/stillbirths	31	12

Total Live and Stillbirths

130

Infant Deaths

(deaths under 1 year)	...	...	1
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Infant Mortality Rates

Infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	...	...	8	17
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	9	17
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	—	21

Neo-Natal Mortality Rates

(death under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	...	...	—	12
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Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate

(deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	...	...	—	10
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Perinatal Mortality Rate					England and Wales	
(stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)					31	22
Maternal Mortality						
(including abortion)						
Number of deaths					Nil	
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths					—	
Deaths						
Number of Deaths					166	
Crude death rate per 1,000 population					15.0	12.1
Standardised death rate					10.5	
Chief Causes of Death					Males	Females
Enteritis					1	—
Malignant Neoplasms: Total					(12)	(15)
Mouth					1	—
Oesophagus					1	—
Stomach					—	3
Leukaemia					1	—
Lung, Bronchus					6	1
Breast					—	6
Prostate					2	—
Others					1	5
Benign Neoplasms					—	2
Endocrine diseases					—	1
Multiple Sclerosis					1	—
Rheumatic Heart diseases					2	1
Ischaemic Heart diseases					23	23
Other Heart diseases					7	9
Cerebro-Vascular disease					7	13
Other Circulatory diseases					3	10
Influenza					1	—
Pneumonia					3	7
Bronchitis and Emphysema					4	1
Other respiratory diseases					—	2
Peptic Ulcer					—	1
Cirrhosis of Liver					2	—
Genito-urinary diseases					1	1
Musculo-skeletal diseases					1	—
Diseases of digestive system					2	—
Motor vehicle accidents					1	—
Other accidents					1	3
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries					2	—
All other external causes					2	1
					76	90

Age of Death Table

	Males	Females
Under 4 weeks	—	—
4 weeks and under 1 year	1	—
1—4 years	—	—
5—14 years	—	—
15—24 years	1	—
25—34 years	2	1
35—44 years	1	—
45—54 years	6	3
55—64 years	14	11
65—74 years	22	29
75 years and over	29	50
	76	90

SECTION “B”

General Provisions of Health Services

1. Hospitals

There are two hospitals in the town. The Memorial Hospital (including Maternity beds) and the Castle Hospital (for Chronic Sick and Geriatric cases). Both of these serve the town and also the large rural area outside the town.

2. County Council Services

The County Council Health and Social Services Departments provide the following services, based on the Health Centre (Okehampton 2231) in the grounds of the Memorial Hospital:—

- Domiciliary Midwifery.
- Home Nursing.
- Health Visitors.
- Supervisory care of expectant nursing mothers, and children under five years.
- School Medical Service.
- Dental Service for children up to school leaving age, and expectant and nursing mothers.
- Chiropody.
- Speech Therapy.
- Cervical Cytology Clinics.
- Social Services (Miss S. Hudson—Senior Social Worker).
- Occupational Therapy.
- Vaccination and Immunisation Sessions.

The Hospital Orthopaedic Clinic, Family Planning Association Clinic, and Child Guidance Clinics are also held on the premises.

The Ambulance Service is run under delegated powers by the St. John Ambulance Brigade, providing a 24-hour cover for the district.

The Health Centre accommodates the General Practitioners for the area.

3. Meals-on-Wheels

Mrs. Coombes (Organiser) reports that “1972 has been a successful year for meals-on-wheels in Chagford. Mrs. Pixie Smith has now taken over the catering and Mrs. Coombes is her Deputy. The food has improved and the cost lowered a little! Meals are sent out three times a week (Tuesday, Thursday and Friday) to South Zeal, Drewsteignton and Chagford, and once to Throwleigh. The average number is 24 and Mrs. Every is in charge of the drivers’ rota”.

Mrs. McInnes (Northlew) organises the service in Folly Gate and Hatherleigh with twice weekly delivery (Tuesdays and Thursdays) to 17 recipients on average. The meals cooked in Tenby House, Okehampton, are appetising, of excellent quality, and much appreciated.

4. WAR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL MATERNITY UNIT

During the year 87 babies were born in the hospital, of this total 49 were from the Rural District i.e. 39% of babies in the Rural District were born in the Unit.

5. LABORATORY SERVICES

Bacteriological examinations of specimens and samples of milk, water, ice cream etc. are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory at Exeter, and any chemical analyses by the Public Analyst at Exeter.

6. CHEST RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE

The Mass Radiography Unit visited Okehampton, Market Car Park, each month during the year and the results were as follows:

	Male	Female	Total
Numbers examined	124	109	233
(G.P. Referrals included 23)			

Abnormalities detected:

Healed Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	—	1	1
Hilar Adenitis	—	1	1
Sarcoidosis	1	—	1
Acquired Cardiac Lesion	—	1	1
Bacterial and Virus Infections of the Lungs	—	1	1
Dorsal Scoliosis	1	1	2

SECTION "C"

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

North Devon Water Board—Southern Division

Mr. E. A. Robb, the Chief Engineer of the North Devon Water Board (South) has kindly supplied the following information:—

"The supply to this area is derived from (1) the West Okement River, the water receiving treatment in the form of sedimentation, filtration, pH correction and sterilization at Prewley Treatment Works, which is at present being extended to treat the water from Meldon Reservoir, and (2) from wells on Taw Marsh, the water receiving treatment in the form of pH correction and sterilization at Belstone Treatment Works.

The source at Prewley was augmented during the dry weather by pumping from an emergency source at Meldon Lake.

The source at Belstone was also augmented by pumping from emergency sources at Chagford, North Tawton and Bugford Quarry.

It was necessary to apply hosepipe restrictions from 18.10.72 to 8.12.72 in areas supplied by the Board's Dartmoor sources.

The Meldon Dam project which was commenced in March 1970 was completed during the past year with impounding commencing on 15.3.72 and the official opening on 22.9.72.

Progress on the extension of Prewley Treatment Works, which commenced on 1.2.72 has unfortunately been slow during the past year but good progress has been made on the new trunk main from Prewley to Belstone which commenced on 6.11.72.

Mains extensions and water supply schemes have been undertaken where required and the distribution system has been maintained in good order".

Satisfactory chemical and bacteriological samples, taken at regular intervals, have been obtained.

Analysis of Water Supplies (Private and Public)

The following samples were taken by the Public Health Staff during the year.

	No. of Samples	Passed	Failed
Bacteriological Examination	70	40	30

Although the Public Health Department does not perform the function of improvement grant work other than repair requirements associated with the rent reassessment qualification certificates, it does get greatly involved in one particular aspect of improvement grant approval namely sampling of rural water supplies with a view to assessing the purity and giving approval and or advice on this aspect before the improvement grant could be approved.

This work of sampling of rural water supplies is very time consuming and wearingly repetitious and its importance should not be underestimated.

Sewerage and Drainage

The year 1972 saw the commencement at last of the nearly one quarter million pounds sewerage scheme and treatment and disposal system for Belstone, Sticklepath, South Zeal and South Tawton Parishes and villages respectively; the method of treatment and disposal being by a Paasveer Oxidation ditch.

This scheme has had a somewhat chequered history of 'stop-go' and 'go-stop' partly due to a series of democratically inspired appeals and resultant inquiries by Ministry inspectors, and an eventual extension from the originally proposed scheme merely to cover Belstone and Sticklepath. When the twenty-seven month contract, for completion Autumn, 1974, is complete then a big step will have been taken forward in basic fundamental rural hygiene and nuisance avoidance in this large sector of the Local Authorities district. During the general build up to Local Government Reorganisation the individual productivity of each member of the Departments office staff tended to become less and less, due to the different nature of the work encountered, to certain definite deadlines such as the compilation of the masses of statistics required for Regional Water Authorities and true Local Government Reorganisation, and the meetings of Working Parties and Steering committees took up a disproportionate amount of time and at the end of the year showed no signs of abating, in fact they tended to be on the increase, as the 'snowball' of reorganisation began to gather speed!

On sewerage schemes the Jacobstowe Sewage Treatment and Disposal Works and Sewerage Scheme was completed in July, at a cost of approximately £18,000; the twenty-first for this Council's twenty-seven parishes—a proud and progressive achievement that puts this Rural Council high in the "league table" of Local Authorities in Devon, and even the whole South West, (if such a league table did exist!)—this scheme was officially opened on 4th August.

Finally, this Rural District Council, by virtue of being in the three catchment areas of the Regional Water Authorities Unit 9, namely 9/4 at Barnstaple (Taw/Torridge), 9/2 at Plymouth (Tamar), and 9/3 at Torbay (Dart/Teign), also called for great administrative time-consumption, for compilation of statistics for that function.

Refuse Collection and Sewerage Disposal Manual Labour Force

Although the whole of the staff at officer level remained the same in 1972, with the exception of "the change of C.P.H.I.", at the manual labour force level a great degree of action took place in reorganising the Councils major labour force element of employees ready for the introduction of a pay and productivity bonus incentive scheme, affecting all of the sixteen manual labour force, after advice given by the Devon County Council Management Services Unit.

Unfortunately this scheme, the subject of a feasibility report dated

March, 1972, but not presented till June, 1972, was not able to be implemented on the proposed date of October, 1972, and was then caught up in the Governments Counter-Inflationary measures 'freeze' policy of Autumn, 1972, so that at the end of the year although the feasibility survey had been carried out, reported favourably upon, and accepted in principle, the scheme was still awaiting implementation.

Regarding this scheme it has been assessed that this Department of the Council is overstaffed in the manual labour force, and it was recommended that these numbers be reduced from sixteen to twelve, by stages, due to natural wastage by retirement etc.; the Council being pledged to no redundancies, but at the same time no replacements, not even of a temporary part-time seasonal nature.

This latter fact is perhaps unfortunate as the part of the year of greatest seasonal influx of floating population of visitors and 'day-trippers' coincides with the height of the holiday season for manual labour force who naturally wish to take their holidays at the same time as school holidays etc., or in any case when the better weather is supposedly always with us.

All this of course coincides with the part of the season of greatest refuse production, litter scattering and public convenience usage. Thus it is not surprising if the usual high standards of degree of the functions performed tend to become somewhat lowered.

At the same time just to exacerbate the situation we were unlucky enough to have an unseasonal summer crop of illness among the manual labour force during the year of 1972.

Rodent and Pest Control

At the present time only an **advisory** service is run by this Council, except in the case of refuse tips, sewers, and sewage treatment and disposal works.

Possibly after Local Government Reorganisation has taken place in April 1974, a **treatment** service will be set up, to fit in with the recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Pests Advisory Service.

Rodent Control—Sewers.

					No. of Manholes	No. of Manholes Treated	Takes
Hatherleigh	...	...	...	...	58	9	5
North Tawton		...	...	...	82	9	7
South Zeal/South Tawton			...	...	78	9	0
Sampford Courtenay		...	...	...	18	3	0
					236	30	12

Inspection of the District and Public Health Services

The number of complaints received on Public Health matters and recorded was forty-three.

The following table sets out the inspections made by the Public Health Staff during the year.

			No. of Visits and Inspections	No. of Notices Served	No. of Notices Complied With
Houses Inspected	...	...	61	43	35
Re-inspections	...	...	48	—	—
Premises other than those mentioned below	...	...	38	38	38
Food Premises	...	...	265	73	68
Refuse Disposal	...	...	301	8	5
Scavenging	...	...	85	—	—
Public Conveniences	...	...	138	—	—
Infectious Diseases	...	...	23	4	4
Water Supplies	...	...	111	27	18
Sewerage and Drainage	...	...	730	4	4
Rivers and Streams	...	...	13	18	16
Petroleum Acts	...	...	40	18	16
Slaughterhouses and Knackers Yards	...	...	305	147	147
Rodent Control	...	...	98	5	5
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	78	11	11
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises	...	...	55	15	16
Animal Boarding Establishments	...	...	5	3	3
Civic Amenities Act	...	...	45	14	14
Waste Foods Order	...	...	5	5	5
Factory Acts	...	...	46	8	8
Pets Act	...	...	3	3	3
Miscellaneous	...	...	61	21	21
Rent Act	...	...	11	11	11
Explosives Act	...	...	12	12	12
			2,577	488	460

SECTION "D"

HOUSING

Individual Unfit Houses—Year Ended 31st December, 1972

HOUSES NOT INCLUDED IN CLEARANCE AREAS

	Houses	Number of Persons Displaced
1. Demolition and Closing Orders Housing Act, 1957		
(a) Houses demolished as a result of formal procedure under Section 17 (1) or informally	—	—
(b) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health ...	—	—
(c) Houses, or parts of house, closed under Section (4) and 18(1)	7	—
2. Repairs		
Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit during the year as a result of informal action by the Local Authority under the Housing Acts	48	—
(Included in this number are 33 houses improved by aid of Standard Improvement Grants and 11 by Discretionary Improvement Grants)		

I am indebted to Mr. L. G. Bailey (the Surveyor and Engineer) for the following information:—

Applications for Development Consent

Applications for development under provisions of the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations, 1960, the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, and Building Regulations 1965/1972 have been received over the past twelve months as follows:

Alterations and Conversions	332
Farm Buildings	134
Advertisements	13
Public Works	27
New Dwellings	224
Caravans	19
TOTAL	749

Of the above total 101 applications have been refused.

Private Enterprise

Private enterprise produced 28 new dwellings during the year.

Improvements Grants

The number of applications for Standard and Improvement Grants under provisions of the Housing Acts, 1969/71 totals 205. Of this total 60 have received approval, 10 have been refused and 135 are awaiting consideration (outline or formal) or have been withdrawn.

Caravans—Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

In a district of this type a relatively large problem arises in sites of small, medium and large capacities for both holiday-static caravans and touring-caravans; permanently residential sites, being generally discouraged on planning grounds, other than small numbers of single caravans established mainly subject to agricultural holdings conditions.

Enforcement of site licence conditions, and the discussion of site licence standards remained a big problem largely due to the ignorance on the part of the potential or actual site licence owners or operatives in respect of the two-fold planning/site licensing procedure especially when these functions are carried out by two separate Departments.

Then again there is the problem of caravan site operatives who apparently deliberately go out of their way to ignore the conditions of their site licence, by even flagrantly breaching the terms of the granted licence even to the extent of using **touring** caravan sites entirely out of season for use by **permanently residential** caravans, even in the depths of winter—luckily these matters sometimes come to light as a result of other functions by the Department (e.g. following up of smallpox contacts etc.)

COUNCIL HOUSES IN THE RURAL DISTRICT

Parish	Situation				No. of Dwellings	Total No. in Parish
BEAWORTHY	...	Black Hill	...	...	2	4
		Patchcott	...	...	2	
BELSTONE	...	Tor Down	...	...	6	6
BONDLEIGH	...	Village	...	...	4	4
BRATTON		Beech Cottages	...	...	3	
CLOVELLY	...	Church Meadow	...	...	8	11
BRIDESTOWE	...	Princess Elizabeth Terrace			8	
		Brid Close	...	...	4	12
BROADWOODKELLY		The Villas	...	...	4	
		Splatt	...	...	1	5
CHAGFORD	...	Dennis Park	...	...	33	
		Biera View	...	...	8	
		Orchard Meadow	...	...	35	
		New Street	...	...	4	80
DREWSTEIGNTON		Lamb's Park	...	...	4	
		Knowle Lane	...	...	4	
		Turnpike Road				
		Whiddon Down	...		4	
		Exeter Road				
EXBOURNE	...	Whiddon Down	...		4	16
		Cawsand View	...	...	3	
GERMANSWEEK	...	The Shrubbery	...	...	6	9
		—			—	—
GIDLEIGH	...	—			—	—
HATHERLEIGH	...	Moor View	...	...	45	
		Higher Street	...	...	6	
		Normandy Place	...		4	
		Claremont Place	...		20	75

Parish	Situation	No. of Dwellings	Total No. in Parish
HIGHAMPTON ...	High View ...	2	2
IDDESLEIGH ...	Winkleigh View ...	4	4
INWARDLEIGH ...	Misdon Cottages, Folly Gate ...	6	
	New Road, Folly Gate ...	23	29
JACOBSTOWE ...	—	—	—
MEETH ...	Station Road ...	10	10
MONKOKEHAMPTON	East View ...	2	2
NORTHLEW	Costloes ...	4	
with ASHBURY ...	Moor View ...	6	10
NORTH TAWTON	Barton Hill ...	16	
	Fore Street ...	8	
	Essington—Arundell Road	20	
	Gowmans ...	14	
	North Street ...	1	59
OKEHAMPTON	Chichacott ...	4	
HAMLETS ...	Peacewater ...	2	6
SAMPFORD	Four Acres ...	4	
COURTENAY ...	Station View ...	4	
	Cross Hill, Tongue End	2	
	Queens Haye, Sticklepath	6	16
SOURTON ...	Broad View ...	4	
	Windard Terrace ...	6	
	Cord Ridge View, Sourton Down ...	6	16
SOUTH TAWTON ...	Hill Crest ...	8	
	Cross Park, South Zeal	10	
	The Croft, South Zeal ...	24	
	Hillfield, South Zeal ...	40	
	Barn Close, Whiddon Down	10	92
SPREYTON ...	Cross Meadow ...	6	
	Spreyton Close ...	4	10
THROWLEIGH ...	Clampitts ...	6	
	Higher Hay ...	2	8
		264	264

SECTION "E"

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The number of Food Premises classified as within the scope of the Food Hygiene Regulations is as follows:

Hotels, Public Houses and Inns	50
Schools and other Canteens	13
Cafes, Restaurants and Guest Houses	24
Food Shops	41
Bed and Breakfast Premises	54
Bakeries	6
Butchers Shops	10
	198

The number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 is:

Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	61
Preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted or pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale	...	...	...	...	...	10
						71

Ice Cream

Two applications for registration of premises for the sale of ice cream was approved by the Council.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955 (Food Hygiene Regulations)

On the basis that education is the counterpart of enforcement, an item of particular interest was pursued in the Autumn of 1972, namely a series of ten weekly two-hour lecture/talks discussion-groups, illustrated with films and slides on food hygiene, organised via the local area Community College, films being borrowed, usually free of charge from certain well known commercial hygiene-orientated firms, whose films fortunately did not exhibit too great a commercial bias.

The course was comparatively well attended by an average of approximately twenty to twenty-five students per session, although this did not represent a very high average in a population of approx. 16,000 (including the Okehampton Borough Council area) in fact rather less than one for each of the twenty-seven parishes, of this Rural District Council of 207 square miles.

One factor influencing the **relatively** slight response is the distance to be travelled in a comparaively sparsely populated area such as this Rural District Council, and the fairly new concept of Area Community Colleges.

Even so one was up against the old problem of "preaching the 'religion' of food hygiene to the already converted"—whose basic ideas were correct, but had one or two misconceptions that merely needed correcting.

Itinerant Food Premises

During the Summer and Autumn season there was the usual crop of food traders operating from the laybys of the Devon County Council main roads especially the A30 'spine' trunk road through this, the centre of Devon en route to Cornwall, to serve and feed the tourists following the call of the "lemmings-to-the-sea".

In the case of one such operator he adopted a policy of non-co-operation as regards food hygiene, blatantly at times, (and also incidentally a disregard for planning and common law of trespass) but as the court case did not come up until November 1972, the 'steam' had gone out of the case, and by dint of employing a good solicitor the result was minimal fines on four out of the eight charges preferred against him—the saving grace being that the cost of employing a **good** solicitor, resulted in the caravan hot dog snack bar operator having to

pay a considerable 'hidden' fine in terms of the costs of the high professional fees and dues paid to the excellent defending solicitor:

Food Hygiene generally tended to suffer in 1972, due to the lack of inspectorial time available due to the great amount of administrative time spent on true Local Government Re-organisation.

Unsound Food

Three certificates were issued during the year resulting in 252 lbs. of unsound food being surrendered by the owners for disposal from places other than slaughterhouses.

Disposal of Condemned Food

This is carried out under strict supervision to this Local Authorities refuse tips, whereat it is buried immediately, but a certain problem arises in the incomplete implementation of the Meat Sterilisation Regulations which require abattoir wastes to be carried in locked containers which are all too often unlocked in the course of transit.

Slaughterhouses

Regarding the functions of the Department performed by the meat inspection staff this range of duties was made a little easier initially by the temporary employment of a 'free lance' authorised meat inspector, at a rather inflated cost, but at least it was handy to have someone of that nature on call in the eventuality of illness or urgent compassionate holidays, to supplement the existing staff in the performance of their numerous duties under at times onerous and anti-social hours of work—the kill/throughput remained reasonably steady and detailed figures are given elsewhere, and show the usual seasonal trends, all made more difficult by the increasing importance and detailed correlation of E.E.C. directives on meat inspection from the large export inspection slaughterhouse at Hatherleigh: a three month licence only having been granted at the commencement of the year, due to certain hygiene conditions not being up to standard. The work of the meat inspector is both mentally and physically demanding and can perhaps cynically be described as pathology in the raw—sometimes to music!

In May of this year of 1972. the medium-sized slaughterhouse at Exbourne village finally closed down due to lack of adequate hygiene compliance and the refusal to issue a further three month licence for slaughtering to continue, coupled with the death of the then owner, whose son on inheriting same, did not apparently wish to persue the matter further, despite being given advice of a helpful nature by this Department.

Meat Inspection

The number of carcasses inspected at private slaughterhouses in the rural district was 72,055 the figure being made up as follows:

Bovines	...	...	...	21,801 (including 4,537 Stirks)
Calves	...	...	...	88
Sheep and Lambs	...	...	...	40,957
Pigs	...	...	...	9,209
				72,055

Compared with the total figure of 83.169 in 1971, there was a decrease in the total weight of meat and offal condemned during the year was 67 tons 1 cwt. 17 lbs., compared with 95 tons 18 cwts. 8 lbs. in 1971.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

Twenty-seven applications were received for licences or renewal of licences, to slaughter or stun animals and twenty-six full and one provisional licences were granted.

Knackers Yard, Hatherleigh

One licensed knackers yard exists in this district—it is fortunately well situated from a nuisance prevention point of view, and is reasonably well operated. Routine visits were paid from time to time during the year and no complaints were received respecting these premises.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

The total number of premises registered at the end of the year were:

Premises						Number of persons employed	
Offices	...	...	...	...	14	70	
Retail Shops	...	...	...	...	20	58	
Wholesale Warehouses				...	1	1	
Catering Establishments				...	7	37	
					42	166	
						Males	85
						Females	81

Fifty-five inspections and re-inspections were carried out.

Offices Shops Act work remains of a somewhat nebulous nature in this sparsely populated local authorities area of 11,000 spread over approximately 207 sq. miles, the majority of small and medium sized shops contained in the villages being exempted from the Safety, Health and Welfare provisions of this Act due to the "family business" type of shop etc., but in the case of those coming within the scope of the Act they were often not able to be fully inspected due to lack of inspectorial time due to other commitments.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or in Part

	<i>Cattle excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number Killed (if known)	9,961	11,840	88	40,957	9,209
Number inspected	9,961	11,840	88	40,957	9,209
All diseases ex. Tuberculosis and Cysticerci: whole carcasses condemned	19	28	9	306	19
carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1,184	6,424	1	7,892	764
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis or Cysticerci	12.07%	54.49%	11.36%	20.01%	8.50%
Tuberculosis only: whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	166
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	1.80%
Cysticercosis: carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	15	19	—	—	—
carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	3	—	—	—
generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

SECTION "F"

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Tuberculosis

One new case (Spinal) of Tuberculosis was notified. The Register now as follows:—

Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
Male	Female	Male	Female
14	11	3	—

Infectious Diseases Notified by Medical Practitioners

33 cases of Measles were notified.

Infectious Diseases Notified by Schools

Boasley Cross County Primary—1 Measles and 29 Chicken Pox
Spreyton County Primary—5 Measles

Salmonella Infections

- (a) **Human**—One case of **Salmonella Heidelberg** occurred in an elderly woman. No food or milk handlers were contacts and no further cases occurred.

A student on holiday in the area was found to be positive to **Salmonella Typhi-murium** but had left the district before the diagnosis was made. There were no known contacts and his University Medical Practitioner was informed.

- (b) **Animal**—16 occurrences (among cows and calves) were reported by the Divisional Veterinary Department in 14 farms, 2 farms being re-infected after a period of some months. Of the 16 occurrences, the infections were as follows:—

- 7 **Salmonella Typhi-murium**
- 8 **Salmonella Dublin**
- 1 **Salmonella "C"** (very rare)

None of the human contacts developed symptoms, and the milk was thrown away and not used, in the case of one milking cow which developed the disease. None of the farms retailed raw milk.

Brucella Abortus

There were 4 farms in which positive cultures were obtained from milk samples. Two Wholesalers whose milk was all heat treated before sale, and two Producer/Retailers of raw milk.

In the case of the Producer/Retailers they each withdrew their milk and after identification the affected cow(s) were slaughtered. The one Wholesaler whose herd was affected was already in the scheme and the animal had been slaughtered before the notification was received. The other Wholesaler did not intend to identify or slaughter the affected

cow(s) and was therefore advised to boil all milk for domestic use, particularly if there were any summer holiday visitors, and take precautions when handling the herd.

Smallpox

Three persons arrived by air in your area from areas where smallpox is occurring without valid vaccination certificates and were kept under observation for the requisite period. As is usual in these cases the persons concerned rarely arrive at the given address on the date stated and quite a considerable amount of time is involved in (a) ascertaining where they may be and then telephoning their Medical Officer of Health, or (b) telephoning the appropriate authority if they have left for another destination.

Preventive Inoculations

During the year staff likely to be visiting Smallpox possible contacts were re-vaccinated, and staff at risk from tetanus infections were immunised against tetanus if they so desired.

Factories Act

The routine number of inspections made under these Acts was affected by the lack of inspectorial time due to Local Government Reorganisation.

Factories Act, 1961

1. Inspections for Purposes of Provisions as to Health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		Occupiers Prosecuted
		Inspections	Written Notices	
(i) Factories in which 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	—	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	29	46	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Out-workers' premises).	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	29	46	—	—

2. Cases in which Defects were found:

<i>Particulars</i> (1)	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i>				<i>Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted</i> (6)
	<i>Found</i> (2)	<i>Remedied</i> (3)	<i>Referred to H.M. Inspector</i> (4)	<i>by H.M. Inspector</i> (5)	
Want of cleanliness	2	2	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	2	2	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	4	4	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences :					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for the sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	8	8	—	—	—

3. Outwork (Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work	SECTION 133			SECTION 134		
	Number of Out-workers in August list required by section 133 (1) (c) (2)	Number of cases of default in sending lists to Council (3)	Number of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	Number of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
(1)						
Wearing Apparel (making etc.)	3	—	—	—	—	—
Knitting	1	—	—	—	—	
Glove Making	—	—	—	—	—	—

OKEHAMPTON RURAL DISTRICT WATER SUPPLIES (1972)

PARISH	Whether the water supply of the area and its parts has been satisfactory (a) In quality (b) in quantity	Where there is a piped supply, whether bacteriological examinations were made of the raw water and, where treatment is installed, of the water going into supply: if so, how many and the results obtained of any chemical analyses	Where the waters are liable to have plumbological action, the facts as to contamination by lead, including precautions taken and results of analyses	Action in respect of any form of contamination	Particulars of the number of dwellinghouses etc. and the number of the population supplied from public water mains			
					No. of Dwellinghouses		Total Population	
					Main	Standpipe	Main	
ASHBURY with NORTHLEW	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	185	—	555	—
BEAWORTHY	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory		N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	58	—	174	—
BELSTONE	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply 14 samples taken—satisfactory	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	111	—	333	—
BONDLEIGH	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply	N.D.W.B.	N.E.W.B.	39	—	117	—
BRATTON CLOVELLY	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	117	—	351	—
BRIDESTOWE	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	155	—	465	—
BROADWOOD-KELLY	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	58	—	174	—
CHAGFORD	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply 35 samples taken—satisfactory	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	434	—	1302	—
DREWS-TEIGNTON	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply 12 samples taken—satisfactory	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	155	—	465	—
EXBOURNE	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply 8 samples taken—satisfactory	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	116	—	348	—
GERMANS-WEEK	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	47	—	141	—
GIDLEIGH	(a) Un-satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	No piped supply Private supply only	Nil	Nil	3	1	9	2
HATHERLEIGH	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply 7 samples taken—satisfactory 2 unsatisfactory	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	405	—	1215	—
HIGHAMPTON	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	58	—	174	—
IDDESLIGH	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	64	—	192	—
INWARDLEIGH	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	126	—	378	—
JACOBSTOWE	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	24	—	72	—
MEETH	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	46	—	138	—
MONK-OKEHAMPTON	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	52	—	156	—
NORTH TAWTON	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply 38 samples taken—satisfactory	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	474	—	1422	—
OKEHAMPTON HAMLETS	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	48	—	144	—
SAMPFORD COURTENAY	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	178	—	534	—
SOURTON	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	103	—	309	—
SOUTH TAWTON	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	405	—	1215	—
SPREYTON	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	109	—	327	—
THROWLEIGH	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	76	—	228	—

Samples were taken from the sources of supply as follows:

BELSTONE: 26 samples taken—all satisfactory
WEST OKEMENT: 44 samples taken—all satisfactory
Upon re-sampling the unsatisfactory sample showed a negative result

